



Friends of the Cromford Canal e-Newsletter

FCC primary aim is "The restoration, reconstruction, preservation & maintenance of the Cromford Canal, its associated buildings, towing path, structures & craft & the conservation of its natural character as a navigable inland waterway system for the benefit of the public."

Issue 6 : November 2020

THE FORTH COVID EDITION:

Well who ever thought that we'd still be mired in this pesky pandemic as we come up to Xmas!?! This eNewsletter has been re-structured to better reflect the organisation and activities of our Charity with separate section headings of "core / general activities", "conservation & restoration" and "boat & shop"

Whilst the stated objective of FCC doesn't include the words "education or engagement", it is clearly vital for the Charity to educate all of its stakeholders if it is to retain and recruit the full spectrum of volunteers and, as importantly, enthuse future generations to our cause - after all ours is a long term project!

Constructive feedback is good, so keep it coming please!



FCC core & general updates: Our postponed and re-arranged AGM was held on 21st September by ZOOM as a result of the Governments "rule of 6" instruction: a quorate meeting was briefed on all important aspects of the FCC's activities, and relevant details filed with the Charity Commission. Two small grants have recently been secured: the first for Covid relief for our fixed property costs, and the second for tools for our local work parties. FCC is working with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site on a report to see how our education and engagement offer within the northern part of the canal can be improved and better joined up with other elements of the WHS: improving our educational offering will not only benefit our commercial operations and our activities on the Cromford - Ambergate part of canal, but ultimately further our strategic aims.

In September Trustees decided that due to almost complete loss of income the Charity could no longer afford to employ our Boat Operations Manager: sadly Mrs V.Wilding has now left us, and as from 9th October the Charity is being operated by 100% volunteers.

FCC Conservation and Restoration: Steve Parish continues to provide fantastic support to FCC to monitor and mitigate threats of all developments that might restrict restoration of the route of the canal and is providing specific and detailed guidance on two such threats at Bullbridge and Sawmills.

On the Pinxton branch of the canal, Pinxton Weir maintains water levels in the canal for about 1Km. Our dedicated work party team of volunteers has just completed re-building work and spent more than 320 hours on the project and has re-charged the whole cost back to Derbyshire County Council! A successful project completed at a much lower cost than a commercial contractor, and demonstrating to DCC the Charity's commitment to that part of the canal. Specific thanks to Chris Broome and John Guyler but also to all volunteers, plus the owner of the wood yard in allowing us to store materials and plant on his site and for the use of some pallets (vital to prevent volunteers from disappearing into the silt!).

FCC's Strategic Restoration Committee is starting to plan for the construction phase of the new Beggarlee extension that will extend the canal from Langley Mill to Stoney Lane. The many planning conditions are being worked through but we hope to start to dig very soon.

Detailed drawings are now in place for Brown's Swing Bridge, and relevant permissions are almost complete for a new bearing to be installed at HPJ. The aim is to have this completed by spring 2021 partly funded by DCC.

FCC's Birdswood & Shop: FCC's Boat Committee meets regularly via ZOOM and is being re-focussed to enable us to hopefully re-commence public cruising in the spring of 2021. Various refunds have been made to customers whose trips have not been able to be taken. Although the Warehouse Office / Shop remains closed, we are exploiting our on-line presence: more than £500 of sales of merchandise has been achieved over the last couple of months, using new online payment and EPOS facilities, which are easier to use and cost the Charity less to run. Our technical team has resolved the issue of the noisy new motor on Birdswood, but further electrical and power testing is still being undertaken. Detailed planning work has been undertaken for our annual inspection from the Marine & Coastguard Agency and the MCA's inspectors arrive on the 4th November - wish us luck!

PLEASE FOLLOW US @FriendCromCanal - Tweeting and Retweeting is good!

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :FCC: [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1342 members, +53% in 11 months!